## Message Text

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**ACTION AF-08** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 AID-05 IO-13 CU-04 /110 W

----- 09888

R 120945Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5387

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0919

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, SF

SUB: VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN CAPE TOWN

SUMMARY: VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN THREE MAIN BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN CAPE TOWN YESTERDAY (AUGUST 11) AS POLICE CLASHED WITH CROWDS OF ROCK AND BOTTLE-THROWING DEMONSTRATORS. LATEST UNOFFICIAL DEATH TOLL PUT AT 33. AT LEAST 15 BUILDINGS DESTROYED BY FIRE. END SUMMARY.

1. VIOLENCE AND ARSON SPREAD TO BLACK TOWNSHIPS OF LANGA GUGULETU AND NYANGA OUTSIDE CAPE TOWN AUGUST 11. EVENTS WERE PRECIPATED BY HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS GATHERING AT LANGA HIGH SCHOOL YESTERDAY MORNING. AS CROWD SWELLED RIOT POLICE MOVED IN AND FIRED TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE. CROWD BEGAN THROWING STONES AND BOTTLES AT POLICE. THEREAFTER CROWDS BEGAN TO FORM AT LIQUOR STORES, POST OFFICE AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS. AT ROADBLOCKS ERECTED AT ENTRANCES TO TOWNSHIP THERE WERE REPEATED TEAR GAS AND ROCK THROWING EXCHANGES BETWEEN POLICE AND CROWDS.

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2. SIMILAR PATTERN OF EVENTS FOLLOWED IN OTHER TWO

TOWNSHIPS. AT GUGULETU HIGH SCHOOL, AS STUDENTS FLED FROM TEAR GAS MANY WERE PUT INTO POLICE VANS AND TAKEN TO POLICE STATION WHERE THEY WERE HELD FOR SEVERAL HOURS. DETAINEES INCLUDED DAUGHTER OF CONGEN EMPLOYEE. BY MIDAFTERNOON, CROWD SAID TO NUMBER IN THOUSANDS SURROUNDED POLICE STATION DEMANDING RELEASE OF DETAINEES. POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE FINALLY CONSENTED TO RELEASE TO AVOID ATTACK ON STATION. BURNING AND STONING OF BUILDINGS AND CARS CONTINUED UNTIL LATE INTO THE EVENING. AT LEAST FIFTEEN BUILDINGS, INCLUDING A LIBRARY, POST OFFICES, BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD OFFICE AND SEVERAL LIQUOR STORES REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BY FIRE. NO FIGURES AVAILABLE YET ON NUMBERS BEING HELD BY POLICE. AS OF "THURSDAY MORNING SITUATION WAS DESCRIBED AS QUIET BUT "TENSE" AND POLICE WERE SAID TO BE ANTICIPATING FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE DAY.

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Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason: **Disposition Remarks:** 

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Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN CAPE TOWN SUMMARY: VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN THREE MAIN BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN CAPE TOWN YESTERDAY (AUGUST 11) AS POLICE CLASH

TAGS: PINS, SF To: STATE Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006